COMPLAINT

| 1 | Reich Radcliffe LLP Marc G. Reich (SBN 159936) | FILED | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 3 4 | 4675 MacArthur Court, Suite 550 Newport Beach, CA 92660 Telephone: (949) 975-0512 Facsimile: (949) 975-0514 Email: mgr@reichradcliffe.com | CLERK. U.S. DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA | | | | | | |
| 5 6 7 | Frommer Lawrence & Haug LLP Richard E. Parke (Pro Hac Vice Upon Applicatio 745 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10151 Telephone: (212) 588-0800 | DEPUTY On) | | | | | | |
| 8 | Facsimile: (212) 588-0500 Email: rparke@flhlaw.com | | | | | | | |
| 9 10 | Attorneys for Plaintiff Bigfoot Ventures, LLC | | | | | | | |
| 11 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | | | | | | | |
| 12 | SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Bigfoot Ventures, LLC, | CASE NO.: '08 CV 1357 BEN JM/ | | | | | | |
| 15 | Plaintiff, | | | | | | | |
| 16 17 | V. | COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT | | | | | | |
| 18 | Compañía Mexicana de Aviación, S.A. de C.V. d/b/a Mexican Airlines, | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Defendant. | FILED BY FAX | | | | | | |
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| 1 | Nature of the Case | | | | | |
|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | Plaintiff Bigfoot Ventures, LLC seeks declaratory relief, as set forth below, to establish | | | | | |
| 3 | that its registration and use of the domain name "vtp.com" is not unlawful under the | | | | | |
| 4 | Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act ("ACPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d). | | | | | |
| 5 | The Parties | | | | | |
| 6 | 1. Plaintiff Bigfoot Ventures, LLC ("Bigfoot") is a venture capital firm with corporate | | | | | |
| 7 | headquarters at Unit 203-204, 2/f Chuk On Building, 23 Mercer Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong. | | | | | |
| 8 | Bigfoot has a California mailing address at 401 Wilshire Blvd. 9th Floor, Santa Monica, CA 90401, | | | | | |
| 9 | but does not have any employees, officers, directors, or other personnel at that address. | | | | | |
| 10 | 2. Upon information and belief, Defendant Compañía Mexicana de Aviación, S.A. de C.V. | | | | | |
| 11 | ("Mexicana") is an international carrier headquartered at Xola 535, Piso 29 Col. Del Valle, Mexico, | | | | | |
| 12 | D.F. 03100. Upon further information and belief, Mexicana operates airline flights into and out of, | | | | | |
| 13 | and flight-related operations at, San Diego International Airport/Lindbergh Field, San Diego, CA. | | | | | |
| 14 | Jurisdiction and Venue | | | | | |
| 15 | 3. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Bigfoot seeks a declaration, | | | | | |
| 16 | pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1114(2)(D)(v) and 28 U.S.C. § 2201, that its registration and use of the | | | | | |
| 17 | domain name "vtp.com" is not unlawful under the ACPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d). In initiating an | | | | | |
| 18 | administrative proceeding with the National Arbitration Forum ("NAF") concerning Bigfoot's right | | | | | |
| 19 | to register the domain name "vtp.com[,]" Mexicana agreed to submit to this Court's jurisdiction, | | | | | |
| 20 | under Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN") Rule 3(b)(xiii). | | | | | |
| 21 | 4. Venue is proper in the Southern District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) | | | | | |
| 22 | because Mexicana is a corporation deemed to reside in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c). | | | | | |
| 23 | Venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(d) because Mexicana is an alien corporation. | | | | | |
| 24 | Additionally, venue is proper in the Southern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. | | | | | |
| 25 | §1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the property that is the subject of this action is situated in | | | | | |
| 26 | this District. Moreover, venue is proper in the Southern District of California because of Mexicana' | | | | | |
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- l voluntary submission to this Court's jurisdiction when Mexicana filed its complaint with NAF
- 2 concerning Bigfoot's right to register the domain name "vtp.com[.]"

3 Facts

- 4 5. Bigfoot is a venture capital firm that invests in a wide range of companies and businesses.
- 5 One aspect of Bigfoot's operations is incubating business concepts that it intends to mature into
- 6 active business entities, with a focus on the communications, technology, education, entertainment,
- 7 real estate, and new media business sectors. Part of Bigfoot's practice involves purchasing
- 8 short/memorable letter-combination domains for use as acronyms in connection with its venture
- 9 capital operations and as eventual identifiers for its businesses. This practice is grounded in
- 10 Bigfoot's good faith belief in the value of short domain names as Internet addresses, and not in an
- 11 effort to resell those domains for profit or obtain or exercise any other sort of leverage or advantage
- 12 over another business or individual.
- 13 6. On May 28, 2008, Bigfoot purchased the disputed domain name "vtp.com" from
- 14 Buydomains.com. DomainDiscover, which upon information and belief is headquartered at 14284
- 15 Danielson Street, Poway, CA 92064, is the registrar ("Registrar") for "vtp.com." Upon further
- 16 information and belief, DomainDiscover is accredited by the Internet Corporation for Assigned
- 17 Names and Numbers ("ICANN").
- 7. On May 30, 2008—only two days after Bigfoot purchased "vtp.com"—Mexicana
- 19 submitted a complaint to NAF pursuant to ICANN's Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution
- 20 Policy ("ICANN Policy") seeking to have the "vtp.com" domain registration transferred to
- 21 Mexicana. The matter was assigned designated Claim Number: FA0805001195961. Mexicana
- 22 claimed that (a) Bigfoot's "vtp.com" domain name is identical to Mexicana's VTP mark, (b) Bigfoot
- 23 does not have any rights or legitimate interests in the domain name, and (c) Bigfoot registered and
- 24 used the domain name in bad faith.
- 25 8. On July 14, 2008, an NAF arbitrator issued a decision directing transfer of the "vtp.com"
- 26 registration to Mexicana.

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- 9. On July 16, 2008, in accordance with the ICANN Policy, NAF provided notice to
- 2 Mexicana, Bigfoot, and ICANN that the Registrar would not implement the NAF arbitrator's
- 3 decision if Bigfoot commenced a lawsuit against Mexicana concerning registration of the domain
- 4 name "vtp.com" within a ten-day period. The ICANN Policy provides that this period is ten
- 5 business days. ICANN Policy ¶ 4(k).
- 6 10. Bigfoot has neither offered to sell nor solicited a sale of the "vtp.com" domain to any
- 7 third party, including Mexicana, and has no current plans to sell the domain. Defendant Mexicana
- 8 has never contacted Bigfoot concerning this mark, for any purpose, beyond the underlying
- 9 proceeding before NAF. Bigfoot's acquisition and registration of "vtp.com" was not done to trade
- 10 off of Mexicana's VTP mark or to favor any Mexicana competitor, but rather as part of Bigfoot's
- 11 good faith business operations and plans.

12 First Count

13 <u>Declaration Under Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act</u>

- 14 11. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates paragraphs 1-10 above.
- 15 12. In registering the domain name "vtp.com[,]" Bigfoot did not have a bad faith intent, as
- 16 provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(A)(i), to profit from Mexicana's VTP mark.
- 17 13. In registering the domain name "vtp.com[,]" Bigfoot did not have the intent, as provided
- 18 in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(B), to divert consumers from Mexicana's online location to a site
- 19 accessible under the domain name that could harm the goodwill represented by the mark, either for
- 20 commercial gain or with the intent to tarnish or disparage the mark, by creating a likelihood of
- 21 confusion as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of the site.
- 22 14. In registering the domain name "vtp.com[,]" and at no time since registration, has
- 23 Bigfoot, as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(B), offered to transfer, sell, or otherwise assign
- 24 "vtp.com" to Mexicana or any third party for financial gain without having used, or having an intent
- 25 to use, the domain name in the bona fide offering of any goods or services, nor is there prior conduct
- 26 by Bigfoot indicating a pattern of such conduct.

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1 In registering the domain name "vtp.com[,]" Bigfoot, as provided in 15 U.S.C. 15. 2 § 1125(d)(1)(B), did not provide material and misleading false contact information when applying for registration of that domain name, has not intentionally failed to maintain accurate contact information, nor is there prior conduct by Bigfoot indicating a pattern of such conduct. 5 16. Bigfoot, as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(B), has not registered or acquired multiple domain names that it knows are identical or confusingly similar to marks of others that are 6 7 distinctive at the time of registration of such domain names, or dilutive of famous marks of others 8 that are famous at the time of registration of such domain names, without regard to the goods or 9 services of the parties. 10 17. Bigfoot has not, as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(A)(ii), registered, trafficked in, or 11 used a domain name that at the time "vtp.com" was registered was identical or confusingly similar to 12 Mexicana's VTP mark. **13** Bigfoot believed and had reasonable grounds to believe that its registration of the domain 18. name "vtp.com" was lawful, as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(B)(ii). 15 As required by 15 U.S.C. § 1114(2)(D), Bigfoot has given notice of its intent to file an action to establish that Bigfoot's registration and use of the domain name "vtp.com" is not unlawful 17 under the ACPA to Mexicana. 18 **Second Count** 19 **Declaratory Judgment** 20 20. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates paragraphs 1-19 above. 21 21. A dispute exists between Bigfoot and Mexicana concerning Bigfoot's right to register and 22 use the domain name "vtp.com[.]" As a consequence of this dispute, an actual and justiciable 23 controversy exists between Bigfoot and Mexicana. 24 25 26

| 1 | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | | Prayer for Relief | | | | | | |
| 3 | | WHEREFORE, Bigfoot requests that the Court enter judgment: | | | | | | |
| 4 | 1. | Declaring that Bigfoot's registration and use of the domain name "vtp.com" is not | | | | | | |
| 5 | | unlawful under the ACPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1124(d); | | | | | | |
| 6 | 2. | Declaring that Bigfoot's registration and use of the domain name "vtp.com" does not | | | | | | |
| 7 | | constitute a bad faith intent to profit from Mexicana's VTP mark under the ACPA, 15 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | U.S.C. § 1124(d); | | | | | | |
| 9 | 3. | Declaring that Bigfoot is not required to transfer the registration for the domain name | | | | | | |
| 10 | | "vtp.com" to Mexicana; | | | | | | |
| 11 | 4. | Declaring that the Registrar shall not transfer the registration for the domain name | | | | | | |
| 12 | · | "vtp.com" to Mexicana; and | | | | | | |
| 13 | 5. | Providing all such other and further relief a | s the Court deems just and proper. | | | | | |
| 14 | ٠ | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | Respo | ectfully submitted, | | | | | |
| 16 | Dated: Ju | uly 28, 2008 Reich | Radcliffe LLP | | | | | |
| 17 | | \mathcal{N} | nusa II. Revil | | | | | |
| 18 | | By: / | G. Reich | | | | | |
| 19 | ٠. | Co-C | ounsel for Plaintiff | | | | | |
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO DIVISION

153430 - MB * * C O P Y * * July 28, 2008 14:33:26

Civ Fil Non-Pris

USAO #.: 08CV1357 CIVIL FILING

Judge..: ROGER T BENITEZ

Amount.:

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\$350.00 CK

Check#.: BC2627

Total-> \$350.00

FROM: BIGFOOT VENTURES LLC VS COMPANIA MEXICANA DE AVIACION

CIVIL COVER SHEET

| provided by local rules of court. The | his form, approved by the Judicial Co BEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE | onference of th | ie United State | ing and service of its in September 19 | of pleadings or other pape 974, is required for the u | rs as required by law, except ise of the Clerk of Court for t | as he | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|------------|--|
| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS | DE NOTROCTIONS ON THE REVERSE | Of HETORIA | DEFENI | DANTS | | | - | |
| | | | | Compañía Mexicana de Aviación, S.A. de | | | | |
| | | | c.v., | d/b/a Me | xican Airl | UL 28 PM 2: 32 |) ` | |
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| | st Listed Plaintiff See Attach | nment | County of R | Residence of First | | | -9 | |
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| ·. | ÷ 1 | | NOTE | LAND INVOLVE | | | 1A | |
| (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Addres | s, and Telephone Number) | | Attorneys (I | · | OO PA | 1357 BEN | J۱۱ | |
| See Attachment | • | | | Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP | | | | |
| | , | | | A. Schla | | A.W. | | |
| | | | | A 926 | et, 14th Flo 14 | Or | | |
| | | | | 49-760-0 | | | | |
| II. BASIS OF JURISDICT | ION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) | III. CIT | | | DAT DADWING | ace an "X" in One Box for Plaintif | – Ŧ | |
| 1 U.S. Government X | 3 Federal Question | (Fo | r Diversity Cases | s Only) | • | and One Box for Defendant) | • | |
| Plaintiff | (U.S. Government Not a Party) | | | PTF DEF | | PTF DEF | | |
| | 4 Diversity | | This State | ıı | Incorporated or Principal of Business In This Sta | | | |
| Defendant | (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item) | Citizen of | Another State | 2 2 | Incorporated and Princip | | | |
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| V. NATURE OF SUIT (Plac | ne on "Y" in One Boy Only) | Foreign (| | | | | _ | |
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| 140 Negotiable Instrument | Liability 365 I | Med. Malpractice Personal Injury - | | Related Seizure | 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 | 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce | | |
| 150 Recovery of Overpayment | | Product Liability Asbestos Persons | [| operty 2 1 USC 88 1 or Laws | PROPERTY RIGHTS | 460 Deportation | | |
| & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act | 330 Federal Employers' | injury Product | 640 R.R. | | 820 Copyrights | 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization | | |
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| , | Other 440 Other Civil Rights | ĺ | 465 Othe | r Immigration | | 950 Constitutionality of | ~ | |
| V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" | "in One Box Only) | | Actio | ons | 1 | State Statutes Appeal to District | - | |
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| Proceeding State | Court Appellate Court | Re | opened | another distr (specify) | rict Litigation | Magistrate Judgment | | |
| | Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under wh | nich you are fil | ing (Do not c | ite jurisdictional | statutes unless diversit | y): | - | |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTION | 15 U.S.C. § 1114(| 2) (D) (v |) and 15 | ซี.ร.с. 🕏 | § 1125(d) | •• | | |
| VII CAUDE OF ACTION | Brief description of cause: | 7 | | | | | - | |
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| VII. REQUESTED IN | \Box CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS AC | TION DE | MAND S | | CHECK YES on | ly if demanded in complaint: | | |
| COMPLAINT: | UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 | | | | JURY DEMAN | D: Yes X No | _ | |
| VIII. RELATED CASE(S) | (Cara tananana) | | | | | • | | |
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ATTACHMENT TO CIVIL COVER SHEET

Bigfoot Ventures, LLC v. Compañía Mexicana de Aviación, S.A. de C.V., d/b/a Mexican Airlines

I(b) County of Residence

Plaintiff's corporate headquarters is in Hong Kong. Plaintiff has a California mailing address in Los Angeles County, CA, but does not have any employees, officers, directors, or other personnel at that address.

I(c) Counsel for Plaintiff

Reich Radcliffe LLP

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Email: mgr@reichradcliffe.com

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